

Che Guevara: Latin-American Political Adventurer

By PAUL HOFMANN

Ernesto Che Guevara, a maverick Communist whom Moscow distrusted, gained a reputation as a political adventurer deeply imbued with the notion that the lonely man of action could revolutionize a people and shape history.

An Argentine of Spanish and Irish ancestry who became a "natural-born" Cuban citizen by special law, he strove almost

The guerrilla leader's nickname Che, an Argentine slang word translatable as "Hey, Mac!" became in Cuba legally part of his name. Cuba's peso notes—worthless outside the island—still bear the signature "Che" and nothing else.

Yet Che was never very popular in Cuba.

Cubans found that the Argentine lacked their sense of humor and they did not like his Spartan insistence on

"moral incentives" to harder work for the revolution rather than more food and consumer goods.

The many Soviet advisers in Cuba were known to have been highly critical of his performance as an economic planner. He himself acknowledged that the Castro regime had made many economic blunders.

Mr. Guevara had long been identified with pro-Chinese leanings, and for this reason,

too, was suspect among the Russians in Cuba. However, there is evidence that he came away empty-handed from his last visit to Peking, bitterly disappointed to find that the Chinese Communist leaders were unwilling or unable to step up economic aid to Cuba.

The revolutionist, born June 14, 1928, in Rosario, married twice. His second wife was Aleida March, a Cuban and former teacher.

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